

REMARKS

It is crucial to the operation of a phase detector to have symmetry of the reactances C1/L1 and C2/L2 to achieve good performances at high frequencies. Thus, it is not obvious to make the reactances adjustable, as this will increase the chance of the reactances C1/L1 and C2/L2 falling out of symmetry. This will be detrimental to the operation of the phase detector. Therefore, there was a prejudice in the art to making the reactances adjustable due to the essential symmetry required by the detector.

The present inventor realized that if the reactances are tuned by means of a laser that evaporates the planar line structure material of the C/L reactances, then the reactances could therefore be adjustable while maintaining the required symmetry. The use of a laser is very precise and allows the symmetry to be achieved nearly perfectly. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not appreciated the consequence of making the reactances adjustable and therefore has wrongly assumed that this would be an obvious step in view of Brauns.

Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, claim 4 was amended to introduce the feature of the laser tuning of the reactances. Basis for this amendment can be found in the second paragraph of page 5 of the specification.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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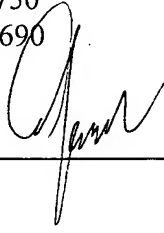
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